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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A canned ceramic honeycomb structure, comprising:

a metal case;

a ceramic honeycomb structure not loaded with a catalyst and contained within said metal case;

a holding material located between said ceramic honeycomb structure and said metal case, said holding material and said metal case having a common longitudinal direction, wherein the holding material has at least one peripheral edge defining at least one edge plane perpendicular to said longitudinal direction; an impermeable layer located on said at least one edge plane.

2. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the length of said impermeable layer is not greater than 10 mm.

3. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein plane pressure properties of said

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impermeable layer are not greater than those of said holding material.

4. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said ceramic honeycomb structure has a second edge plane, and said at least one edge plane of said holding material having said impermeable layer located thereon and said second edge plane of said ceramic honeycomb structure are substantially in common.

5. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable layer comprises an impermeable material adhered to said holding material along said at least one edge plane of the holding material.

6. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable material is a thin film.

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7. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable material comprises a rope having one of a circular, quadrangular, or arbitrary cross-section.

8. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable material comprises resin selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, paper, cloth, and ~~like~~ fiber.

9. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable layer comprises a portion located adjacent said at least one edge plane of said holding material, said portion being impregnated with impermeable matter selected from the group consisting of oils and fats.

10. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partition thickness of said ceramic honeycomb structure is not greater than 0.10 mm.

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11. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said holding material comprises a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a canning structure which comprises a ceramic honeycomb structure; said honeycomb structure having been not loaded with a catalyst, a metal case and a holding material, and said ceramic honeycomb structure being canned in said metal case and being held by said holding material thereto;

which comprises forming an impermeable layer by adhering an impermeable material on at least one edge plane of the holding material in the longitudinal direction, thereby at least one edge plane of said impermeable layer of the holding material and edge plane of the ceramic honeycomb structure are provided on approximately same plane.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a canning structure comprises a ceramic honeycomb structure; said

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honeycomb structure having been not loaded with a catalyst, a metal case and a holding material, and said ceramic honeycomb structure being canned in said metal case and being held by said holding material thereto;

which comprises impregnating an impermeable matter so as to form an impermeable layer on at least one edge plane in the longitudinal direction of a holding material, thereby at least one edge plane of said impermeable layer of the holding material and edge plane of the ceramic honeycomb structure are provided on approximately same plane.